

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Nuri al-Maliki, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, into the House Chamber for a joint meeting to be held at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, July 26, 2006. **Page S7933**

Energy Bill Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that if the Majority Leader or his designee introduces a bill related to energy on Thursday, July 20, 2006, it shall be in order to move to proceed to that legislation on Friday, July 21, 2006. **Page S7947**

Messages From the House: **Pages S7905–06**

Measures Referred: **Page S7906**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S7906**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S7906–20**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7920**

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
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Additional Statements: **Page S7905**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7929–32**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S7932**

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
Pages S7932–33

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—211) **Pages S7839, S7851–52**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:41 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, July 20, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7944.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

MILITARY COMMISSION: HAMDAN V. RUMSFELD

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded hearings to examine the status of military commissions in light of the Supreme Court decision in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, after receiving testimony from Elisa C. Massimino, Human Rights First, Katherine Newell Bierman, Human Rights Watch, Eugene R. Fidell, Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell, LLP, on behalf of the National Institute of Military Justice, James Jay Carafano, Heritage Foundation, and Neal

K. Katyal, Georgetown University, all of Washington, D.C.; Michael Mernin, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York, New York; David A. Schlueter, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas; and Scott L. Silliman, Duke University School of Law Center on Law, Ethics, and National Security, Durham, North Carolina.

MONETARY POLICY REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report of the Federal Reserve, after receiving testimony from Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Frederic S. Mishkin, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Linda Mysliwy Conlin, of New Jersey, to be First Vice President, James Lambright, of Missouri, to be President, and J. Joseph Grandmaison, of New Hampshire, to be a Member of the Board of Directors, all of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Geoffrey S. Bacino, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, Edmund C. Moy, of Wisconsin, to be Director of the Mint, Department of the Treasury.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. Con. Res. 71, expressing the sense of Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual;

S. 3661, to amend section 29 of the International Air Transportation Competition Act of 1979 relating to air transportation to and from Love Field, Texas;

S. 3679, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board;

An original bill, proposed Maritime Administration Improvements Act of 2006; and

The nominations of Mark V. Rosenker, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, R. Hunter Biden, of Delaware, and Donna R. McLean, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak), John H. Hill, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Andrew B. Steinberg, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, both of

the Department of Transportation, and routine lists in the Coast Guard and NOAA.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness concluded a hearing to examine high-performance computing as a priority in the overall Federal research and development portfolio, the impact and success of interagency coordination in this area, and United States leadership in high-performance computing in the context of global competitiveness in information technology and its applications, after receiving testimony from Simon Szykman, Director, National Coordination Office for Networking and Information Technology Research and Development; Irving Wladawsky-Berger, IBM Corporation, Somers, New York; Christopher Jehn, Cray Inc., Arlington, Virginia; Jack Waters, Level (3) Communications, Broomfield, Colorado; Joseph Lombardo, University of Nevada National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment, Las Vegas; Michael Garrett, The Boeing Company, Seattle, Washington; and Stanley Burt, Advanced Biomedical Computing Center, Frederick, Maryland.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests concluded an oversight hearing on the implementation of The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (Public Law 108–148), after receiving testimony from Nina Rose Hatfield, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget; Dale Bosworth, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Rick Delaco, Village of Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico; Colleen MacLeod, Commissioner, Union County, La Grande, Oregon, on behalf of the National Association of Counties; Matthew Koehler, WildWest Institute, Missoula, Montana; and Jay Jensen, Council of Western State Foresters, Lakewood, Colorado.

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the science and risk assessment behind the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed revisions to the particulate matter air quality standards, after receiving testimony from George Gray, Assistant Administrator, Research and Development, Environmental Protection Agency; John B. Stephenson, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Roger O. McClellan, Toxicology and Human Health Risk Analysis, Albuquerque, New Mexico; George D. Thurston, New York University School of Medicine, New York, New York; and

Anne E. Smith, CRA International, and Daniel S. Greenbaum, Health Effects Institute, both of Boston, Massachusetts.

DHS PURCHASE CARDS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Department of Homeland Security purchase cards, focusing on whether DHS's control environment and management of purchase card usage were effective, key internal control activities operated effectively and provided reasonable assurance that purchase cards were used appropriately, and indications existed of potentially fraudulent, improper, and abusive or questionable purchase card activity at DHS, after receiving testimony from Gregory D. Kutz, Managing Director, and John J. Ryan, Assistant Director, both of Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, Government Accountability Office; and David L. Norquist, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3678, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 843, to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Elizabeth Dougherty, of the District of Columbia, and Harry R. Hoglander, of Massachusetts, each to be a Member of the National Mediation Board, Ronald S. Cooper, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Lawrence A. Warder, of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Troy R. Justesen, of Utah, to be Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, both of the Department of Education.

CREDIT CARD INTERCHANGE FEES

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine antitrust concerns relating to credit card interchange rates—the fees that credit card issuers, and/or processors, charge the merchant to process a credit card transaction, after receiving testimony from Bill Douglass, Douglass Distributing Company, Sherman, Texas, on behalf of the National Association of Convenience Stores; Kathy Miller, The Elmore Store, Elmore, Vermont; Joshua L. Peirez, MasterCard Worldwide, Purchase, New York; and Joshua R. Floum, Visa U.S.A., Inc., Timothy J.

Muris, George Mason University School of Law and O'Melveny and Meyers, and W. Stephen Cannon, Constantine Cannon, on behalf of the Merchants Payments Coalition, Inc., all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 2703, to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965, with an amendment.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 14 public bills, H.R. 5831–5844; 2 private bills, H.R. 5845–5846; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 449–451; and H. Res. 926–929 were introduced.

Pages H5490–92

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H5492

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 925, providing for consideration of H.R. 5684, to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement (H. Rept. 109–579); and

H.R. 4804, to modernize the manufactured housing loan insurance program under title I of the National Housing Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–580).

Page H5490

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Miller of Michigan to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H5383

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Monsignor Robert Sheeran, President, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey.

Page H5383

Pledge Protection Act of 2005: The House passed H.R. 2389, to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance by a recorded vote of 260 ayes to 167 noes, Roll No. 385, after ordering the previous question.

Pages H5388–H5419, H5432–33

Agreed to:

Atkin amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 109–577) to add language making it explicit that the Act is effective immediately and applies to all pending and future litigation.

Pages H5417–19

Rejected:

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 109–577) that sought to require that Federal courts have jurisdiction when free exercise of

religion is violated due to coerced or mandatory recitation of the Pledge; and

Pages H5416–17

Watt amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 109–577) that sought to preserve the authority of the United States Supreme Court to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of, or the validity under the Constitution of, the Pledge of Allegiance, as defined in 4 U.S.C. section 4, or its recitation (by a recorded vote of 183 ayes to 241 noes, Roll No. 384).

Pages H5415–16, H5432–33

H. Res. 920, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 257 yeas to 168 nays, Roll No. 383, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 382.

Pages H5396–97

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Preserving the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States: H.R. 5683, amended, to preserve the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States, by a (2/3) yea-and-nay vote of 349 yeas to 74 nays with 3 voting “present”, Roll No. 386; and

Pages H5422–26, H5433–34

Expressing sympathy for the people of India in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai on July 11, 2006: H. Res. 911, amended, to express sympathy for the people of India in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai on July 11, 2006, by a (2/3) yea-and-nay vote of 425 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 387.

Pages H5426–32, H5434–35

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Resolution condemning in the strongest possible terms the